

What: Rededication of the Daniel Guggenheim Aerospace Engineering Building
When: April 18
Length: Three to five minutes
Background: Bob Loewy will provide the introduction. You will then speak on behalf of the Institute. Dr. Loewy will then follow you with recognition for those who made the restoration possible. D. Dutton will then speak on the historical aspect of the building.

Good afternoon. On behalf of the Institute, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the rededication ceremony of the Daniel Guggenheim Aerospace Engineering Building.

The Aerospace Building houses one of Georgia Tech's core academic schools, the School of Aerospace Engineering, and is one of the oldest academic buildings on the campus.

A building such as this one can mean many things to different people. To an unfortunate few, I'm sure the Daniel Guggenheim Aerospace Engineering Building has been just a place to take notes and endure exams, but to others it is much more. It has been a gateway to new opportunity—to a world of knowledge previously undisclosed. Here students have learned about everything from the first helicopters to rocket ships. From aerial robotics to space shuttles.

To still others, myself included, this building is also symbol. A brick edifice that represents Tech's first real taste of national recognition.

Very briefly, because I know Mr. Dutton will speak more about the historical aspect of the grant, Georgia Tech received the grant from the Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics because we already had an excellent program—and had the potential to become even better.

The Guggenheim Fund was a highly respected national educational foundation; their faith in Georgia Tech—as well as the funds they provided—have enabled us to build upon that initial recognition we received back in 1930.

The gift led to the establishment of the Guggenheim School of Aeronautics. Tech president Marion Brittain—who was a major force behind our landing the gift—labeled the award: “the greatest honor ever bestowed upon the School.”

It was a national award—valued at \$300,000, the last Guggenheim grant of its kind. Georgia Tech was the first as well as the last Southern university to receive the award.

Looking back, it is perhaps one of the most significant gifts in our history.

To realize its significance, I’d like to look at two areas:

1. The other schools who received Guggenheim awards and where those schools are today; and
2. The excellence of Georgia Tech’s School of Aerospace Engineering.

Winners of prior Guggenheim grants included M.I.T., New York University, the University of Michigan, the California Institute of Technology, and Stanford. Today, those schools are among the best in the nation. In fact, in the most recent ranking of graduate schools of aerospace

engineering by U.S. News and World Report, the top five schools were M.I.T., the California Institute of Technology, Stanford, the University of Michigan, and Georgia Tech.

At Georgia Tech specifically, we've also done quite well. We have been in the top five for graduate rankings for the last three years. And, this year, during the first-ever ranking of undergraduate programs by U.S. News and World Report, our School of Aerospace Engineering was ranked number two.

Our faculty are also top notch, including the 1995 State of Georgia Professor of the Year and two members of the National Academy of Engineering.

Likewise, our students are excellent. In the 1995 AIAA National Undergraduate Engine Design Competition, our student design team won first place.

Obviously, all of our achievements in the field of aerospace engineering cannot be attributed to the Guggenheim grant. However, the grant definitely provided a nice springboard for an already excellent program.

Proof of the excellence of our program and proof that a building can mean much to many people, can be found in today's attendance. You are here because of your shared history in this building—to share with us in the joy of this day. I would especially like to thank the Class of '39 for their help. Without you, this day might not have been possible.

In closing, as the president of Georgia Tech, I am very proud of the renovation. Proud that, like the Institute itself, the Daniel Guggenheim Building is ready for the future. I am also proud that this facility, again like the Institute itself, faces the future with its heritage intact.

Within both entities, we combine a tradition of excellence with a solid strategy for future success. We take from the past that which has made us great—preserving our heritage and history—and move on toward an even greater future.

Thank you.